

CEO & Chairman of the Board; The Hain Celestial Group, Inc.), Esteve Torrens (President & CEO; Stonyfield Farm, Inc.), Kevin Cleary (CEO; Clif Bar).

TO US AND GLOBAL LEADERS

As the world gathers in Paris this week for the 2015 United Nations Conference of the Parties, we come together, as some of the largest, best known global apparel companies, to acknowledge that climate change is harming the world in which we operate.

From the farmers in cotton fields to the workers in garment factories, we know that people in some of the least climate-resilient regions are being negatively impacted by a warming world. Drought, changing temperatures and extreme weather will make the production of apparel more difficult and costly.

We recognize that human-produced greenhouse gas emissions are a key contributor to climate change. Climate change mitigation and technological innovation are vital to the health and well being of those who make and use our products, as well as to the future supply of materials needed to make those products.

Therefore . . .

We call upon you to reach a global agreement that provides the certainty businesses need and the ambition that climate science demands.

We support a strong global deal that will accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy and that includes:

A global goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions well before the end of the century.

National carbon emission mitigation commitments that are strengthened every five years starting in 2020 with a clear timetable for new commitments in 5-year blocks from 2030 onwards.

Adaptation funding to build climate-resilient economies and communities.

Today we pledge to:

I. Continue to reduce our emissions while increasing the purchase of renewable energy and pursuing energy efficiency in our operations.

II. Advocate for climate and energy policies that meaningfully address climate change at the global, national and state/regional levels.

III. Engage our respective trade associations in thoughtful discussions on meaningful climate and energy policy and advocacy that promotes the long-term growth and prosperity of our sector and the health of the global economy.

We are prepared to be held accountable to our pledge.

We are ready to meet the climate challenges that face our businesses. Please join us in meeting the climate challenges that face our world.

Eric Wiseman (Chairman & CEO; VF Corporation), Herbert Hainer (CEO; Adidas Group), Jake Burton Carpenter & Donna Carpenter (Founders; Burton Snowboards), Eileen Fisher (Founder & Chairwoman; Eileen Fisher), Chip Bergh (President & CEO; Levi Strauss & Co.), Art Peck (Chief Executive Officer; Gap Inc.), Karl-Johan Persson (CEO; H&M).

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

BUSINESS BACKS LOW-CARBON USA

We are some of the businesses that will help create the future economy of the United States.

We want this economy to be energy efficient and low carbon. We believe there are cost-effective and innovative solutions that can help us achieve that objective. Failure to

tackle climate change could put America's economic prosperity at risk. But the right action now would create jobs and boost competitiveness.

We encourage our government to

1. seek a strong and fair global climate deal in Paris that provides long-term direction and periodic strengthening to keep global temperature rise below 2°C

2. support action to reduce U.S. emissions that achieves or exceeds national commitments and increases ambition in the future

3. support investment in a low-carbon economy at home and abroad, giving industry clarity and boosting the confidence of investors

We pledge to continue efforts to ensure a just transition to a low-carbon, energy efficient U.S. economy and look forward to enabling strong ambition in the U.S. and at the Paris climate change conference.

Autodesk, Inc.; The Coca-Cola Company; Unilever; Adidas Group; Johnson Controls, Inc.; Clif Bar & Company; Intel; Kingspan Insulated Panels; Microsoft; Qualcomm; Sprint; Colgate-Palmolive Company; Smartwool; The Hartford; Volvo, Volvo Group North America; Burton; Snowbird; eBay; Seventh Generation; Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies; Vail Resorts; Levi Strauss & Co.; EMC; New Belgium Brewing Company; Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows; Annie's; Alta; General Mills; Dignity Health; BNY Mellon; Jupiter Oxygen Corporation; Hewlett Packard Enterprise; Outdoor Industry Association; Procter & Gamble; Ben & Jerry's; Schneider Electric; Xanterra; Nike; The North Face; Symantec; JLL; Powdr Corporation; Gap Inc.; Owens Corning; EnerNOC; Hilton Worldwide; VF Corporation; Guggenheim; Timberland; L'Oréal; IKEA; Aspen Snowmass, Aspen Skiing Company; Vulcan; Eileen Fisher; DuPont; CA Technologies; Nestle; Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Catalyst; Sealed Air; National Grid; Saunders Hotel Group; Hewlett Packard; Kellogg's; Teton Gravity Research; Dell; Mars, Incorporated; NRG; Ingersoll Rand.

IN SUPPORT OF PROSPERITY AND GROWTH: FINANCIAL SECTOR STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Scientific research finds that an increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere is warming the planet, posing significant risks to the prosperity and growth of the global economy. As major financial institutions, working with clients and customers around the globe, we have the business opportunity to build a more sustainable, low-carbon economy and the ability to help manage and mitigate these climate-related risks.

Our institutions are committing significant resources toward financing climate solutions. These actions alone, however, are not sufficient to meet global climate challenges. Expanded deployment of capital is critical, and clear, stable and long-term policy frameworks are needed to accelerate and further scale investments.

We call for leadership and cooperation among governments for commitments leading to a strong global climate agreement. Policy frameworks that recognize the costs of carbon are among many important instruments needed to provide greater market certainty, accelerate investment, drive innovation in low carbon energy, and create jobs. Over the next 15 years, an estimated \$90 trillion will need to be invested in urban infrastructure and energy. The right policy frameworks can help unlock the incremental public and private capital needed to ensure this infrastructure is sustainable and resilient.

While we may compete in the marketplace, we are aligned on the importance of policies

to address the climate challenge. In partnership with our clients and customers, we will provide the financing required for value creation and the vision necessary for a strong and prosperous economy for generations to come.

Bank of America; Citi; Goldman Sachs; JPMorgan Chase; Morgan Stanley; Wells Fargo.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMBAT ISIS AND PROTECT AND SECURE THE UNITED STATES ACT OF 2015

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Senate Democrats are proposing important legislation to help combat the threat of ISIS and to keep Americans safe. It would strengthen the security of the Visa Waiver Program and close the terrorist gun loophole. I am a cosponsor of these efforts. We need to respond to the threat of ISIS—wherever it exists—and we need to work with our international partners to combat this barbaric terrorist group.

The President has adopted a limited and necessary military response. We stand here, elected by our constituents to give weight to their voices in our democracy. I hear from Vermonters every week concerned about the threat of ISIS. I also hear their concerns about further expanding what has been an unending war.

It is time for Congress to weigh in with more than just talking points and heated rhetoric. Congress has a duty to debate what further military role the United States should take in combating ISIS. Before we send our men and women into harm's way, Congress should vote on a new, limited authorization for the use of military force. We should sunset any new authorization of military force and require Congress to renew and reauthorize its authority.

The ill-fated war in Iraq cost thousands of lives and trillions of dollars and has left the region no more safe and secure than when it started more than a decade ago. Congress can't make that mistake again. I support strategic, authorized military efforts to dismantle ISIS, but just as I opposed the war in Iraq, I will not support a blank check that perpetuates unending war.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST SKYLAR ANDERSON

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week, a distinct honor was bestowed upon Vermont Army National Guard